

BOWLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

1894

	1881.	1891.
Population	5825	5292.
Area of District in Acres ...	77027	77027.

Registration Sub Districts :—

POPULATION :	1891	Area in Acres
Gisburn	2023	23010.
Slaidburn	1489	41361.
Sub District of Clitheroe	1636	12656
Sub District of Whalley	144	
	<hr/> 5292	<hr/> 77027.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Bowland Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Annual Report for the year 1894, I am pleased to be able to state that there has been little sickness in the district and that the death-rate is exceptionally low.

There have been 60 deaths throughout the whole year, as against 75 in 1893, 60 in 1892, 97 in 1891, and 79 in 1890.

This gives the death-rate, 11·5 as compared with 14·17 in 1893, 11·3 in 1892, 18·3 in 1891, and 13·5 in 1890.

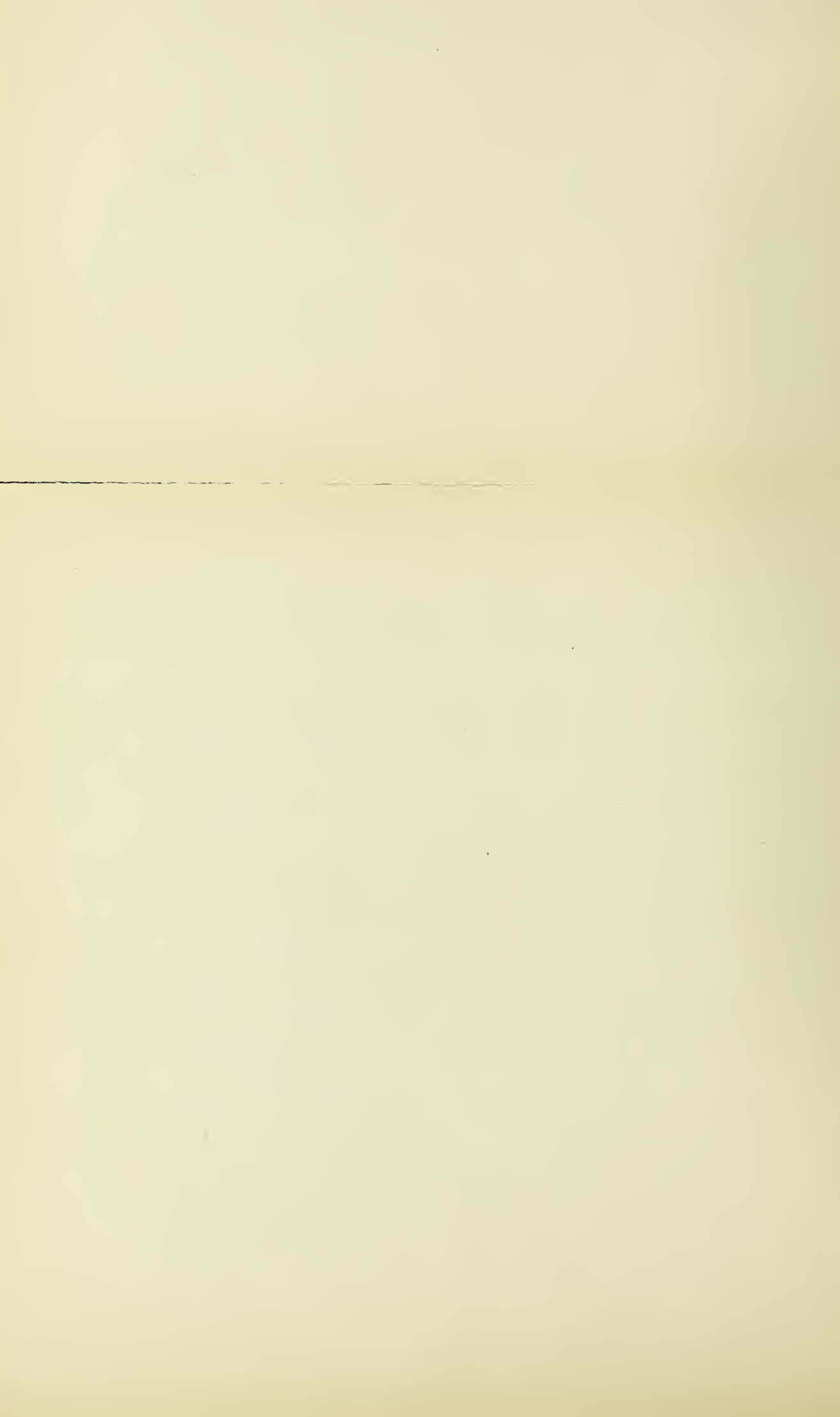
There were 2 deaths from infectious disease ; 1 from Scarlatina, and 1 from Erysipelas, the latter was not reported to me, and occurred at Salem, near Rimington.

Of the 60 Deaths :—

25	were registered at	Gisburn
11	„	Slaidburn
20	„	Clitheroe
4	in the sub-district of	Whalley

Out of this number, 14 were in children of under five years, and 46 were five years of age, and upwards.

Of those under five years, 12 were in infants, as the following table will show :



	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 60	Over 60	Males	Females
Erysipelas ...	1					1		1	
Scarlatina ...	1	1						1	
Diarrhœa ...	1			1					1
Phthisis ...	2					2		2	
Bronchitis, &c	11	5				2	4	8	3
Heart Disease	7					2	5	3	4
Injuries ...	3			1		2		2	1
Other Causes	34	6	2	3	1	5	17	19	15
TOTAL ...	60	12	2	5	1	14	26	36	24

Eleven deaths were attributable to Bronchitis, etc., five of which were in infants of under one year. Seven to Heart Disease, five of which were in persons of over 60 years of age.

Altogether there were 26 deaths in persons over 60 years of age, and 34 under. Of these, 36 were males and 24 females.

During the year I received 34 notifications of Infectious Disease, as compared with 41 in 1893, and 27 in 1892.

5 were from Gisburn District
7 „ Slaidburn „
22 „ Clitheroe „

32 were cases of Scarlet Fever, and two were of Typhoid Fever.

One case of Typhoid was at a Farm near Dale Head, and in a subject who had been recently confined.

The other was at West Bradford in a young man, and had evidently been contracted at Blackpool.

Most of the cases of Scarletina were in children who were attending Lane Ends School, 5 being at Dugdale's Farm, 1 Acre Hall, and 6 Barrow Brows.

The one fatal case of Scarlatina occurred at West Bradford, and was in an infant of under one year.

The number of Births in the whole of the district was 121, as against 124 in 1893. This gives a Birth-rate of 22.8, as compared with 23.4 in 1893, 23.2 in 1892, 24.3 in 1891, and 22.3 in 1890.

62 were male children and 59 were female children.

55 were born in the Gisburn district
30 „ Slaidburn „
32 „ Clitheroe „
4 „ Whalley „

Subjoined are the Tables as required by the Local Government Board.

All the cases of Scarlatina were visited by me, and the necessary instructions given.

Mr. Burrow, the Nuisance Inspector, supplied the disinfectants, and in some cases also made inspection.

I have to report that the schools in the district are in a good sanitary condition. Bashall Eaves, West Bradford, and Lane Ends Schools have all had special closet accommodation made.

A case of Scarlet Fever was reported to me from Admergill on March 16th. This I visited but found it to be just over my district line, so I reported it to Dr. Atkinson, Medical Officer of Health of Settle.

On the 22nd of March I visited the farm called, "Lower Coppy Nook," at which place a death from organic poisoning was said to have occurred. I, together with Mr. Burrow, examined the house and premises; the report of which I gave in the first quarter. The house has been thoroughly gone over, drains re-laid and altered in their course, and a cess-pool put down in the meadow.

We also followed the course of the brook, where we found at Holden that all the slop water and refuse drains run directly into the brook.

At Holden Clough we found that the excreta from the out-door water closets ran directly into the brook.

The water used by the tenants at Lower Coppy Nook is obtained from a spring near the brook, and at a higher level than it. Mr. Parkinson, the tenant, also assures me that in any case the water was boiled for domestic purposes.

It is difficult for me to say whether the water supply had anything to do with the case of death. I am inclined to think that it was attributable more to the effects of Scarlatina, which was in the house a few months before this date.

On March 28th, Colonel Luard, of the Local Government Board, held an inquiry in Gisburn School, with regard to the Sewering of the Village.

~~No particular objections were made, and the Scheme is now progressing.~~

In July, I was again requested by the Rural Sanitary Authority to report on the Out-Door Closets at Holden Clough, as to the pollution of the Brook, &c.

On the 30th, Mr. Burrow and I again inspected and tested the drains, and simply verified our former report.

At the following meeting, the owner met the Authority, and promised to make the necessary alterations at the end of the year. I am sorry to say this was not done.

In August, two cases of Scarlatina occurred at the Post Office, Waddington. From the first hour almost, the greatest care was taken, the children isolated, and regular and periodical disinfection was resorted to.

I called frequently, no other cases broke out.

A subject of Scarlatina came from Colne to Gisburn thoughtlessly. This was reported to me by the Medical Officer of Health of Settle. I went to Gisburn and found that the girl was ignorantly visiting the village. The case had not been diagnosed or reported. Here the usual instructions were given, and I wrote to the Medical Officer of Health of Colne, also to the Medical Officer of Health of St. Annes-on-Sea.

The water supply throughout the year has been fairly good, but there are many farms where the supply is inadequate and of very doubtful purity.

There is little or no building going on in the district.

With regard to the closets and removal of night soil, I cannot do better than again quote Dr. Thompson, and to say that it is one of the most important matters to attend to.

1st. That there should be improvement of receptacles throughout the district.

2nd. More frequent and systematic removal, and that all receptacles for excreta and refuse, whether movable or fixed, should be of a sufficiently limited capacity to render impossible large accumulations of filth.


The closets should be kept dry, hence, the floors should be raised above surrounding ground, and well cemented. Ashpits and middens ought to be covered by suitable roofing to attain this.

The Nuisance Inspector has again done good work, and I now append his report.

The district is now apparently healthy.

Yours obediently,

JOSEPH J. SMITHIES.



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NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To J. J. Smithies, Esq., Medical Officer of Health.

DEAR SIR,

I herewith submit to you the report of the work done during the past year.

There are 40 Diaries and Cowsheds registered in the Yoakshire part of the Clitheroe Union, ~~being six more than in the previous year. These are now in a fairly satisfactory sanitary condition,~~ and are well supplied with water in nearly all of them. During the past year six have had windows put in and been better ventilated, and had the tank drains trapped off outside the doors of the cowsheds.

With regard to Slaughter Houses. There are eleven in the Yorkshire part of the Clitheroe Union, and they are not all that could be desired. I think the Authority should pass a resolution to compel all who have Slaughter Houses to have them registered; with concrete floors and drains of Sanitary pipes, with properly cemented joints.

The pollution at Holden Clough, which was reported last summer, has not yet been attended to. There have been 5 proper Gullies, with traps, put in at Holden and a new drain of sanitary pipes put in at Dugdale's House, and slopstone water drained into the field.

At Lower Copy Nook Farm there have been a new drain and gully fixed to slopstone, and drain to closet, which empties itself on to the land.

There have been two new closets erected at Holden.

In Grindleton there have been five new closets and ash-pits erected. The closets are put on the pail system.

In Newton, new gullies, slopstone pipes, and drains, have been put in ten houses with sanitary pipes.

In Gisburn several houses have had new slopstone pipes and gullies put in, and the Sewerage Scheme Works are progressing well. When finished, all the houses will have proper sanitary drains to the slopstones; a number of closets will be put on the waste water flushing system, which will be a good thing for the village, as at present a number of unsanitary closets are in use.

I have supplied disinfectants to all places where infectious diseases have been reported.

The rest of the work has been the seeing to the cleansing of closets and ashpits.

There are some repairs to drains and cowsheds at White Hall Farm, Grindleton, being carried out, but owing to the frost the work is not yet completed.

I remain, yours obediently,

ALFRED BURROW,

Inspector of Nuisances, &c.

Gisburn, January 22nd, 1895.

